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Message Text

SECRET

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51
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 OMB-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 IO-14

DLOS-06 DOTE-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 FEA-02 SCI-06

PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 NEAE-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 L-03

ACDA-19 CG-00 /175 W
---------- 108244
P 041345Z MAR 74
FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1833

S E C R E T THESSALONIKI 0109

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, GR, TU
SUBJECT: ALLEGED GREEK STANCE IN GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN CONFRONTATION

REF: A) ATHENS 1273 B) THESS 110

1. ON MARCH 1 COMMANDER OF 87TH MILITARY COMMAND AND NOV 25 COUP LEADER, BGEN DEMETRIOS TASSOPOULOS, TOLD RANKING USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF NORTHERN GREEK JOURNALISTS' UNION (PLEASE PROTECT STRICTLY), THAT HE (TASSOPOULOS) PROCEEDING ATHENS MARCH 3 TO DISCUSS WITH PRES. GHIZIKIS, CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES BONANOS, AND FELLOW COUP LEADER BGEN IOANNIDIS STEPS TO IMPLEMENT GOG FIRM DECISION TO TAKE "VERY HARD" LINE IN CURRENT DISPUTE OVER OIL EXPLORATION RIGHTS IN AEGEAN. LINE INCLUDES THREAT "TO BLOW ANY SHIP OUT OF WATER" WHICH CONSIDERED AS TRESPASSING ILLEGALLY FOR EXPLORATION PURPOSES IN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS, ACCORDING TASSOPOULOS.

2. QUERIED AS TO HOW THIS POSITION JIBED WITH INSTRUCTIONS
SECRET

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GIVEN TO EDITORS HERE BY MILITARY CENSOR, LT. COL. SPANOS,

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LAST WEEK TO "GO SOFT" ON ISSUE, TASSOPOULOS RESPONDED
SPANOS WAS AT LOWER LEVEL, PROBABLY GUESSED THIS WAS
RIGHT COURSE, BUT ACTUALLY NOT AWARE OF DECISION AT TOP.

3. COMMENT: TASSOPOULOS DID PROCEED ATHENS YESTERDAY AND,
AS OF NOON TODAY, IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE RETURNED. WHETHER
HE PUT THIS STORY OUT IN KNOWLEDGE IT WOULD REACH US,
AND DESIRED ESTABLISH POSTURE, OR WHETHER IT IN FACT
DETERMINED POSITION OF NOV 25 LEADERSHIP, AS OPPOSED
THAT STATED BY PETROPOULOS (REF A), NOT KNOWN HERE. HOWEVER,
IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT IN EITHER EVENT THAT JINGOIST SENIOR
EDITOR OF "ELLINIKOS VORRAS", ELIAS KYROU, WHO IS KNOWN
TO EXCHANGE THOUGHTS WITH TASSOPOULOS, EDITORIALIZED IN
HIGHLY TRUCULENT TONE ON SUBJECT OVER WEEKEND (REF B).
BRENNAN

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